

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



**75TH AFP ANNIVERSARY** Various military units parade in Camp Aguinaldo to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. In his speech, President Aquino praised the AFP's "bayanihan" spirit after the typhoon cancelled its annual ball and instead donated the money allotted for the event to the victims of Tropical Storm "Sendong." The AFP also cancelled various portions of the grand parade and saved P4 million for Sendong's victims. (See related story on Page A8.)

## Hunt on for 'The Butcher'

### Mindanao, Visayas to have rainy Christmas

By T) Burgos and Dora Z. Pazzinigo

THESE may be no good ones for a Christmas for survivors of Tropical Storm "Sendong."

While no storm is at sight, monsoon rains in the weekend are likely to blanket wide areas of the country and trigger floods and landslides not only in Mindanao and the Visayas but also Luzon, particularly the Bicol region, weathermen said yesterday.

As the tail end of the cold front moves southeast, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms, said Robert Sison, weather division chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

The rainshowers and thunderstorms will become widespread over the eastern section, and particularly intense in Mindanao on Christmas, he said.

"Our countryside areas should prepare because flash floods might occur during the weekend," he said during a press conference.

ENRICH A-7

### Church seeks intercession of soccer-be-saint / A5



**DAILY SPREAD** Families displaced by Tropical Storm "Sendong" line up for their daily food ration at Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City.

## Relief drive: Poor show again they're quick to give than rich

By Terra Quinsamondo on Manila and Nestor P. Burgos Jr. in Iligan, Visayas

EVEN BEFORE Accredo de Manila University officially launched its relief drive on Monday for the victims and survivors of Tropical Storm "Sendong," one of its security guards had al-

ready come forward, carrying a small bag containing two tins of canned goods, instant noodles and some rice.

"He said it was the (Christmas) gift he got from his office and that he was giving it to the relief drive," said Harvey Edo, a program director at the Asian School of Development.

Organizers didn't have to

wait long for warm bodies to join the pioneering ones. Eds also noted. Two Accredo scholars, who came from low-income families, immediately volunteered to help.

"You can see that poverty is real," he said.

**Palace to add P1B more for calamity fund / A8**

## Notorious general goes into hiding

THE TABLES have been turned: The hunter is now the hunted.

Two days after Joven Palapan Jr. was stopped at an airport in Pangasinan province from leaving the country, the government launched a manhunt for the retired major general tagged by activist groups as "Blackdog (blackdog)" for the string of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances attributed to him.

A task force has been formed solely to find, arrest and detain Palapan since his failed attempt to leave for Singapore on Monday, President Aquino's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said yesterday.

Borned by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and Interior Sec-



**PALAPAN** A reversal of fortune

etary Jesse Robredo, the task force is made up of members of the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation, Lacierda said.

The mother of one of two University of the Philippines students abducted in 2006 said that Palapan was "a coward" and that "we will search you out."

In a statement issued by his office, Lacierda called on Palapan to stop hiding and surrender.

MORE A8



## US seeks to stop one dude's free sperm bank

DAKAR, California—A 36-year-old bachelor, who has fathered 14 children with four more on the way through his free sperm donations, has been ordered by US authorities to stop his giveaways as he poses a health hazard.

A resident in the San Francisco Bay area, Trent Arsenault has gained a reputation as a

US LIVES A8

### TALES FROM THE DEPTHS

## 'He is our only child who lived'

By D) Yap

LAGAN CITY—With the many lives lost on flying island at the mouth of a river in this coastal heartland, a boy's unexpected tale of survival is the only thing that comforts his folks in their time of sorrow.

To his parents, 8-year-old

Mike Hermin dela Cruz, who barely stands over a meter tall and cannot swim, will always be "the boy who lived"—the only one among five siblings to survive the horror of Nov. 30 and the floodlike hours that followed.

Hermin and Arnaldo dela Cruz, who still labor, doubted that

they'd stay for a living, are giving over the deaths of Sherin, 7, and Aldrin, 2, and the presumed deaths of Maria, 6, and Aldrin's twin, Aljon, who have not been seen since the swirling waters triggered by Tropical Storm "Sendong" engulfed them on Friday night.

HERMIN A-7

## Dog dies after saving drowning girl

By Doreen Joy Santos inquirer@inquirer.net

CRISTIAN DE GRIS—A dog, known as a hero's best friend, is what 7-year-old Jovelyn Vega found out during the devastating flood that swept her and countless others

away from Isla de Oro and the other villages here last Friday.

When the rampaging waters came and rose, Jovelyn, her parents Nilo and Marlon, and her brother Mark decided they should get to the roof of their house.

Marlon said they believed

they were safe there, as their neighbors did. They were wrong.

Their house—made of light materials—did not have a chance against the floodwaters.

Soon, the Vega family

DOG A-7

## With family in mind, man floats for 30 hrs

By Ryan D. Roa inquirer@inquirer.net

FOR 41-YEAR OLD construction worker Pedro Gallardo Jr., sheer determination to see his family again motivated him through the raging, muddy waters, the burning waves, and 30 hours afloat as one without food.

"My mind was focused on being reunited with my family," Gallardo related while waiting for his turn for an ambulance shot at Intero Provincial Hospital.

"I struggled to do my best," he said of his efforts to survive. Around 11 p.m. on Friday,

WITH FAMILY A-7

















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- Sustainable government spend, less debt and encourage for the free market that apply
- Private-public partnership used for cases in the Philippines only, which is not applicable in the UK
- The Philippines showed massive housing shortage (10 million)
- The free markets that are characterized by Gov. 2013-1
- Public interest that is not comprehensive enough of the general interest and of the free market
- Objectives are insufficiently apply

For Dec 1 - City government documents (open access and under review)

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the same time, they are also responsible to their shareholders. What if the water crisis threatens and yet the firm cannot afford to pass it to the shareholders?

See original source for full text and details.  
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FIGURE 1. — Bay Area (2) recording treatment data (table 1) for two years (1998-1999) and for two (2) Bay recording treatment data for the same period (1998-1999) for two (2) Bay recording treatment data for the same period (1998-1999).

**FIGURE 3** – Percentage of cases of type 2 diabetes in Singapore, by ethnicity, 1995–1999. (Source: Ho CH, Hien J. *Diabetes and Insulin*, pp 113. World of Books, Singapore.)

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# OFWs may now return to Libya

THE government has lifted the ban on the deployment of returning overseas Filipinos (OFWs) employed in the medical and oil sectors in Libya, Labor Secretary Francisco Rodolfo said yesterday.

Rodolfo said the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) governing board is now a resolution of having medical and oil workers who have serving contracts in Libya to return to the country, which was recently struck by civil war.

"The lifting of the ban at this level, and consequently the lifting of the ban, will not cover the deployment to Libya of newly hired OFWs," Rodolfo said in a statement.

"That will be determined at a later date and will be subject to further assessment to satisfy the government that enough guarantees exist to ensure the safety of our OFWs bound for Libya," he added.

Rodolfo said the unemployment of returning workers from other sectors might be solved "in a later time when the Philippine government is satisfied that there are enough safety guarantees for OFWs."

The labor chief said the resolution

"allows them immediately" and would allow the gradual independence of

"returning workers in the medical and oil sectors only subject to proof of

existing employment as determined by the POEA."

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# INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

It will be a special month for the people of Manila this year.

Editor: Jon Benavides  
Bureau Chief: Marissa L. Benavides

## Nativity story in Batangas animated show

By Jerome C. Ballester  
Batangas City

FROM their stage in Barangay San Antonio in San Rafael town in Batangas, 63-year-old Homelita Caligaman and her 12-year-old grandson, Jess, had to travel 12 kilometers and endure traffic just to witness what Batangas City was offering this Christmas season—an animated show of the birth of Christ.

At exactly 6 p.m. on Friday, spectators flocked to the heart of the deeply religious capital to see life-sized characters in front of the city hall's administration building and listen to a beautiful narration of events and encouraging musical scoring.

The audience starts with the appearance of Archangel Gabriel to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and the birth of the Child Jesus in the stable.

The heavy traffic from our place is a hindrance for us but we see this," Caligaman said as Filipinos.

At 6, a child graduate of San Antonio Elementary School, was surprised, "It was like watching a presentation in an open-air theater in Metro Manila and was enjoyable as watching the Nativity story for a book," he said.

"I would share this experience with my classmates and friends in our hometown so that they would come here also," Jess said.

Mayor Minus Limarosa said the city government came up

with the animated display "so the Batangueños would no longer need to travel to Metro Manila to see the same thing."

After hours of watching down and the music that Christmas is all about the birth of Christ, Caligaman said "we encourage people to see the Nativity story."

Caligaman said watching the Nativity story was a timely effort to educate and encourage people from all walks of life on what the Holy Family had endured.

"During this time when the youth have mostly forgotten the message of why Jesus came here, this is a great venue to make them remember the meaning of this season," she said.

"They should also see the story of the Nativity."

The animation may be viewed daily from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will continue on Jan. 15, 2015, the city's holiday.



ONLOOKERS watch the life-sized Christmas display animated to dramatize Jesus Christ's nativity in Batangas City.

(Journal of Southern Luzon, Manila, Philippines)

## 'Butterflies' flutter in Boac festival garden

By Gerald Gons R. Quinsido  
Boac, Marikina

DRESSED in colorful butterfly and flower costumes, hundreds of teenagers and students

### HOMETOWN

transformed the town of Boac in Marikina into a grand garden to highlight the celebration of the Bita-Bita (Butterfly) Festival on Dec. 8.

From an inspiration from the spectacle, which coincided with the feast of the town's patroness, the Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, was meant to promote the island province's butterfly industry said Councilor Susan Tagalanza, the festival chair.

In addition from being an event featuring and butterfly propagation activities, the festival also promotes the butterfly industry throughout Marikina.

About 70 percent of the Philippines' total butterfly exports valued at P100 million come from Marikina, mostly from the province's butterfly and paper exports.

It has the most number of butterfly species in the country and its industry is butterfly farming and research are more advanced than those of other provinces, Paglamanan said. There are at least four butterfly breeders in Marikina.

With the holding of the Bita-Bita Festival, "it is right to claim that Marikina is the butterfly capital of the Philippines," he added.

Meanwhile, he said, the festival would boost the province's tourism industry. Patricia Lefay, an environmental science teacher at Marikina State College who is popularly called "Mrs.



GIRLS dressed in butterfly look the street during the Bita-Bita Festival in Marikina.

(Journal of Southern Luzon, Manila, Philippines)



FLOWERS, butterflies, and a friendly smile from a participant complete the Bita-Bita Festival in Marikina.

house butterfly" because of the numerous research and studies on the insect, agreed on the island after being displayed on its site.

"One of the key to the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, it would be better to hold the festival during the month of May, which is the month of flowers," Lefay said. "Celebrating the festival to

May is more in consonance with the blooming of the flowers and best plants. The festival can move ahead during the month of May because the flowers will attract them," he added.

He believed that more studies would come to see the festival site even expanded in May. "Marikina will be able to establish its brand as the country's butterfly capital because

farmers from Iloilo and Marikina always look at the province as the best butterfly market for their pupae and butterflies," Lefay said.

"We, as local residents, have a vast network of buyers of butterflies. We will build such alliance with other regions than those from the other provinces," he said.

## With government cash doles, poor buy Christmas gifts

By Della Mallari Jr.  
Luzon City

NO MATTER how slowly the cash doles from the government's Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) have brought Christmas joy to the poor in Quezon.

"My family can use it to buy new clothes, diapers for the kids, and the rest for special food," an old woman resident of Barangay Capigay III in Marikina said in an interview. She declined to identify herself but said she may be one of the few of program beneficiaries.

The woman admitted though that she was going to use the cash, coming from P800 to P1,400 a month, for purposes other than health and education.

The 4Ps is a government program that offers the poorest of the poor monthly doles of P500 for health and P100 for the education of every child below 16 years old, not exceeding three children per family. A household is usually entitled an average of P1,400 a month.

Last week, recipients from the coastal town of Marikina turned a long line on the sidewalks of Quezon Avenue in Luzon City, waiting for the monthly P500 cash of the Philippines' 4Ps in open and semi-enclosed, some sit on the sidewalk gutters while others stand themselves on the

sidewalk of their companions for a quick nap.

"They do not wait here to come here to Luzon and spend for transportation when the bank robbers had already delivered to us the money in Marikina before," one of them said. The beneficiaries spend P100 each for food.

According to Jody, social welfare officer from Marikina, more than 1,000 residents are listed in 4Ps beneficiaries. The said 1,000 households delivered the money to them in their last distribution of the financial assistance a few months ago.

"But IBS reported in this time that the recipients should come to Luzon to collect the money because they are now too busy," Jody explained over the phone.

Julian Pineda, another resident of Capigay III, said he would take one hour to travel from his place in Luzon.

The waiting recipients were overwhelmed talking on what has gotten to be less than the two shopping malls in the city. They do not have ATM (Automated Teller Machine) cards but only cash withdrawal receipts issued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The receipts, which must be presented to the bank after along with identification card issued by their municipal social welfare office, contain personal information and the amount of cash they are to get.

Marikina's receipt contains the sum in pesos P10,000 for two months' assistance.



RECIPIENTS of the Pamilyang Pilipino Program from Marikina, Quezon, line up for their cash doles.

JOYNT MALLARI





# SPORTS



ROSE, Youngest NBA MVP

## Rose inks 5-year, \$94-M extension with Bulls

CHICAGO — It seemed like something out of a movie script the moment the Chicago Bulls coach Derrick Rose with the No. 1 pick in the draft.

The latest twist? A multimillion contract extension.

That's just another indication it is rapid and steady rise to the top that has made the 25-year-old guard the Bulls' franchise player.

The ongoing NBA MVP award is a five-year contract extension with the Bulls.

Chicago Bulls coach Derrick Rose with the No. 1 pick in the draft.

The Chicago Tribune, citing anonymous sources, first reported the deal.

The press agent for the franchise said the deal is a five-year extension. The deal is a five-year extension. The deal is a five-year extension.

Philadelphia, though they need any other 2014.

It's something big, but I think I want to talk more about it Philadelphia, with my family and everybody being there, the new press agent and after the Bulls' previous victory over Indiana on Tuesday night. But it's definitely something big.

It's something big, but I think I want to talk more about it Philadelphia, with my family and everybody being there, the new press agent and after the Bulls' previous victory over Indiana on Tuesday night. But it's definitely something big.

for Bryant said. The Lakers is a franchise player. The Lakers is a franchise player. The Lakers is a franchise player.

The deal is a five-year extension. The deal is a five-year extension. The deal is a five-year extension.

# Rain or Shine ousts Barangay Ginebra

## Petron books semifinal slot

By Maeng & Canillo

ANTIPOLLO — Rain or Shine's victory in a second round game last night. The Barangay Ginebra team needed to prevent the Petron franchise from winning the series with ease.

The Barangay Ginebra team needed to prevent the Petron franchise from winning the series with ease.

The Rain or Shine team needed to prevent the Petron franchise from winning the series with ease.

The Rain or Shine team needed to prevent the Petron franchise from winning the series with ease.



Rain or Shine's victory over Barangay Ginebra in the semifinals of the PBA Cup.

## Azkals, UFL set charity game for CDO, Iligan

By David P. Lopez

MANILA — The Azkals and the United Football League (UFL) are set to host a charity football game for the CDO and Iligan.

The Azkals and the United Football League (UFL) are set to host a charity football game for the CDO and Iligan.

## Wambach named best US female athlete

ORLANDO — With the final awards being handed out, the United States women's national soccer team's captain, Alex Morgan, was named the best female athlete in the world.

Orlando — With the final awards being handed out, the United States women's national soccer team's captain, Alex Morgan, was named the best female athlete in the world.

## Praying for goodwill and trust

BARF EYE

Barf Eye

Barf Eye



Praying for goodwill and trust

Praying for goodwill and trust

Praying for goodwill and trust

Praying for goodwill and trust

Wambach named best US female athlete

Wambach named best US female athlete



## UAAP Volleyball: Adamson registers twin kill

By David P. Lopez

MANILA — UAAP Volleyball: Adamson registers twin kill

UAAP Volleyball: Adamson registers twin kill

Adamson registers twin kill

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## DID YOU KNOW

1949), were its predecessor's trademark of some Metro-Manila as of April, according to data from the Metro-Manila Development Authority (MMDA). MMDA earlier also showed that there were around 7,000 houses in the metropolis during the same period. **Abelardo S. Maning, Inquirer Publisher**



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## RANDOM TESTING ON DRIVERS' ILLEGAL DRUGS INTAKE

## DOTC checks drug use on road

By Paolo S. Manalang

**PUBLIC** utility vehicle (PUV) drivers caught using drugs while on the job should be prepared to face the consequences, including the possibility of losing their license.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) yesterday said the use of drugs, particularly marijuana, more popularly known as "shabu," is common among drivers who have to stay awake during long drives.

"Our main objective is to ensure safe travel for all passengers," Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Jesus Jacob said.

To reach the practice, the DOTC, through the LTFRB and the Land Transportation Office (LTO), started random drug testing on main public transport terminals around the country on Wednesday.

In some drivers are found to be positive for prohibited drugs, a corresponding legal penalty will be served and their licenses suspended.

## Negative results

"We are glad to report that the testing was smoothly run with negative results for the drivers who were willing to undergo the comprehensive drug examination," he added.

Edgardo Caban, senior director of the LTO law enforcement service, said 52 drivers of 15 buses belonging to Pinoy Bus Inc. (PBI) were left a weekend in Pinoy City.

DOTC-A2



## DOG'S DAY OUT

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to the reasons we celebrate.  
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Readers of these columns, this letter and those that follow

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### Shoppers line up for The Christmas

100



*"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.'"*

*Psalm 91:1-2*



## Esperanza Domingo San Pedro

*Peacefully joined our Risen Lord  
on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at the age of 86.*

Her beloved husband **Felimon** (†),  
children: son and daughter-in-law **Maximo** and **Josephine**,  
sons **Cecilio Paul** and **Lorenzo**, daughter **Ma. Fe**;  
grandchildren, **Janette Marion** and her husband **Mark Joseph Labrador**,  
**Jessica Marla**, **Jennifer Mariel**, **Joseph Maximilian**, **Janina Mikaela**;  
great-grandson, **Jacob Maximo**, & her brothers and sister  
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz-Sucat  
(inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat Rd., Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 24, 2011 after the 8:00 a.m.  
Requiem Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

*"Now I am about  
to go the way of all  
the earth. You know  
with all your  
heart and  
soul that not one  
of all the good  
promises the LORD  
your God gave you  
has failed.  
Every promise has  
been fulfilled; not  
one has failed."*

*- Joshua 23:14*

*"I was the expectation and the joy of my children. In my  
old days, many through the day, and I became father to the  
weak and old." — John 1:12-24*

### ELENITA BAUTISTA CUENCA

She peacefully joined our Risen Lord  
on Tuesday, December 20, 2011  
at the age of 92.

Her children: Miguel and Rosa, Francis and King, Ricky  
and Henry, grand children: Joyce and John, Josephine  
and John, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal  
repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Paz  
Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, Manila.  
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, December 24, 2011 at  
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, Manila.  
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, Manila.

Those who desire, please, contact the Inquirer Classifieds  
at the age of 92.

Thank you.



*mother, friend, sister, sister*

Early days ago, on 13 November 2011,  
**EMILIA MANUELA IBARRA DOMESTICO-ARIZ**  
our dear mother passed away. She was 85.  
She is survived by her sons: Juan, Sr., Emilio DOMESTICO,  
Antonio DOMESTICO, Pedro DOMESTICO and Carlos DOMESTICO,  
daughters: Ines Maria DOMESTICO and Maria DOMESTICO,  
grandchildren: Raul DOMESTICO, Tito DOMESTICO, David DOMESTICO,  
Antonio DOMESTICO.

In fulfilling of her final wish and combined as  
by their presence, presence and presence, we ask you to keep  
her in your prayers and especially for her  
Holy Mother of the Most.

We are all very grateful for the life of our dear mother, Emilia Manue-  
la Ibarra Domestico-Ariz, who passed away on 13 November 2011.  
— John 1:12-24

### CARLO MIGUEL "MIGS" CEPEDA SISON

January 19, 1937 - December 22, 2011

We sadly remember the life of our dear father, Carlo Miguel Cepeda Sison,  
who passed away on 22 December 2011 at the age of 74.  
He is survived by his wife, Maria Cepeda Sison, and his children: Carlo,  
Miguel, and Angel. We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal  
repose of his soul.

Family and friends:  
Rosa and Paulina, Carlo, Miguel,  
Miguel and Angel, Maria, Carlo, and  
Miguel. Inquirer Classifieds.

### Inquirer Obituaries

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*"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has  
prepared for those who love Him." - 1 Corinthians 2:9*

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### Our dearest Pepito JOSE ANCHETA AVENA

passed away the loving hands of our Lord  
on the morning of 22 December 2011 at the age of 84  
and he is survived by his wife, Maria Ancheta Avena, and his children: Jose, Antonio,  
and Carlos DOMESTICO, and his grandchildren: Raul DOMESTICO, Tito DOMESTICO,  
David DOMESTICO, Antonio DOMESTICO.

We are mourning family: Mariano DOMESTICO, Miguel DOMESTICO,  
Miguel DOMESTICO, and Carlos DOMESTICO, and his grandchildren: Raul DOMESTICO,  
Tito DOMESTICO, David DOMESTICO, Antonio DOMESTICO, and his grandchildren: Raul DOMESTICO,  
Tito DOMESTICO, David DOMESTICO, Antonio DOMESTICO.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.  
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, Manila.  
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, Manila.  
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, Manila.





# LIFESTYLE Food

Editor: Therese Lim on Sun Jan

Subscription: For 2012 P12,000 (12 issues) | Website: [www.inquirer.com](http://www.inquirer.com) | E-mail: [lifestyle@inquirer.com](mailto:lifestyle@inquirer.com)  
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## Food and hospitality industry rally for Mindanao flood victims

In true Christmas spirit, food companies, restaurants, hotels and supermarkets extend aid to typhoon victims

By Virgin Bayas-Reyes

THE MINDANAO FLOODS and their rising death toll (P2) as of this writing) and their visible damage to property and resources have dampened the Christmas cheer. But paradoxically, it is a compelling prospect of aid in the simplicity of Christmas and shared human bond of compassion—a disregard of class and religion.

In the true Filipino spirit of bayanihan and its acceptance with the season of sharing, many food companies, culinary institutions, restaurants big or small, hotels, supermarkets, private citizens and voluntary employees are pooling their resources to extend aid to the typhoon victims, community or otherwise.

Some groups have donated cash while others have taken the initiative to collect food items, such as canned goods, medicines and clothing materials, to be given to relief organizations.

### Bakers' goods

Quilbordo recently opened a canteen in Palawan, Cebu, and the two have been supplying baked and sweet goods, including items on to trucks to be brought to disaster sites, and helping out with the relief efforts.

Trucks from their Davao canteen are also sending the right kind of aid to supply some goods to the typhoon victims.

12/22/2011 11:11

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Cambodia, May 2011.

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up a Christmas Evening Collection as well as its  
Track and Field range. It's a season with pace  
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# Noche Buena with Juday

Without a doubt, Christmas is one of the most important holidays in the Philippines. There are many ways that people celebrate it, but most importantly, every family has a Noche Buena—a special meal where people gather together and rejoice.

Directly translated to "Good Night", the Noche Buena tradition started in colonial times and remains a very integral part of our culture, even now. It is celebrated in other countries like Spain, Cuba, and Latin America in various ways. Most commonly, Noche Buena is shared after a late Mass—friends and family come over and begin feasting with some appetizers before proceeding to a sumptuous multi-course dinner.

As a chef and a culinary arts expert, Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo is no stranger to preparing such feasts. The penchant for perfection that she acquired from her culinary classes translates well in her preparations, not only for the taste of her food but also in their presentation. Christmas only comes once a year, so she makes sure that everything is memorable and perfect.

While many of her friends—including husband Ryan and kids Nolan and Lucia—will surely attest that she has her own Christmas specialties, the multi-awarded actress admits that Christmas would never be the same without her favorite Goldilocks treat. "Ever since I was a kid, Christmas time is Goldilocks time. Ganap, raman tsiga, yeta lapag, Pilipino ka," Judy pointed out.

In fact, Judy's favorite Foodship products are raman, the Goldilocks Party Package. "I love to cook and create, but it can get too dring during the season," she explained. "With the Goldilocks Party Package, using tawag lang, instant Christmas celebration sa pansa sa maraming toka," Judy further mentioned.

Of course, being the country's number one bakery, every Goldilocks treat must culminate with an exceptional cake—and none would fit the season better than the Goldilocks Black Velvet Cake. This velvety rich and creamy chocolate cream cheese and buttercream-filled masterpiece is the perfect dessert for a sumptuous Christmas feast. "Super stasyo-yung presentation nito, with chocolate ganache, whipped cream and a maraschino cherry to top it off," said Judy Ann, who knows quite a bit about cakes. "Most importantly, in put that irreplaceable Goldilocks goodness," she enthused.

One thing is for sure: the Santos-Agoncillo household will have a Goldilocks Noche Buena this year, which is likewise a fitting welcome into the Goldilocks family.



All these countries have different ways of celebrating Christmas, but at the heart of it all, the message is the same. This is the time to reflect on the year that passed; to count our blessings and be thankful for the presence of those we love. Indeed, sharing a meal encapsulates this, therefore the Noche Buena is considered a truly meaningful feast.

Juday  
picks  
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